

23 May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another busy term, it is always a pleasure to reflect on the wide range of learning experiences, achievements, and opportunities our pupils have enjoyed across the school, including creating another wonderful work-related environment in the Outdoor Learning Environment. It has also been wonderful to see the positive outcomes from our recent pupil survey, which shows how much our children value their learning, feel supported by staff, and enjoy coming to school.

Fundraising for Woodstock

You may remember this time last year, Kathryn, one of our amazing teachers, ran the London Marathon and raised valuable funds to support our school. This year, alongside her husband Martin, they completed a gruelling 2-day ultramarathon around Loch Ness and have so far raised £830 in support of our Woodstock Festival. What a great achievement and thank you both from all of us at Five Acre Wood school!

A huge thank you also to everyone who supported our recent Hadrian's FAWall Challenge — and, of course, to our incredible team for their dedication to training, fundraising, and completing the challenge itself. Our team completed the walk in just four days, fuelled by determination and sunshine. Along the way, they met some truly inspiring people who cheered them on, sent kind messages, and even made generous donations. I am thrilled to share that they raised an incredible £8,798!

Outdoor Learning Environment

We have a truly inspiring new addition to our Outdoor Learning Environment — The Brambles (previously named The Willows). The Brambles marks the beginning of a long-term vision to create a work-related learning environment that enables our pupils to develop practical, employable skills in horticulture, construction, and related industries. What makes this project so special is that it has been built by the pupils themselves — from the ground up.

From clearing the site of undergrowth and debris, to laying the concrete foundations, to constructing the frame of what is now a fully functioning large workshop, our pupils have shown exceptional teamwork, determination, and resilience. Special thanks go to our sponsors, Challenge Fencing and Charlton Farm, for helping bring this vision to life.

When some of our pupils were asked what they felt they had gained from this project, Jacob responded with a smile, calling it “back-breaking,” while Cody proudly shared, “I feel proud of what I have built with my friends,” adding that he had learned new skills he’ll carry with him into the future. Tiffeny highlighted the spirit of collaboration, saying, “It was good that everyone worked together helping each other, and if one of us was having an off day, the others would offer help and make sure they were okay.”

Plans are in place to add a rest area which will serve as both a lunch area and information hub, with indoor and outdoor notice boards displaying key information on health and safety, pupil projects, and upcoming lessons. I am so proud of what they have already accomplished, and even more excited for what lies ahead.

VE Day

On Wednesday 8th May, pupils marked the 80th anniversary of VE Day with a special non-uniform day. To commemorate the occasion, some pupils—and even a few staff members—chose to wear red, white and blue. Others embraced the theme with vintage-style outfits, while many simply enjoyed the chance to express themselves in their favourite clothes.



Transition

This term marked the beginning of transition visits for pupils who will be joining our Five Acre Wood provisions at Snodland — The Wolfe Building and St Katherine's. It has been a pleasure to watch the children explore their new settings, meet staff members, and begin to familiarise themselves with the environment where they will continue their learning.

As part of the transition process, on 13th May, Year 7 pupils visited Leybourne Lakes on for a special trip to meet pupils who will be joining the Snodland site in September 2025. The group enjoyed a sunny day of picnicking, playing, and getting to know each other. It was a fantastic opportunity to start building new friendships and ease the move into the next stage of their school journey.



Structured Sleepover

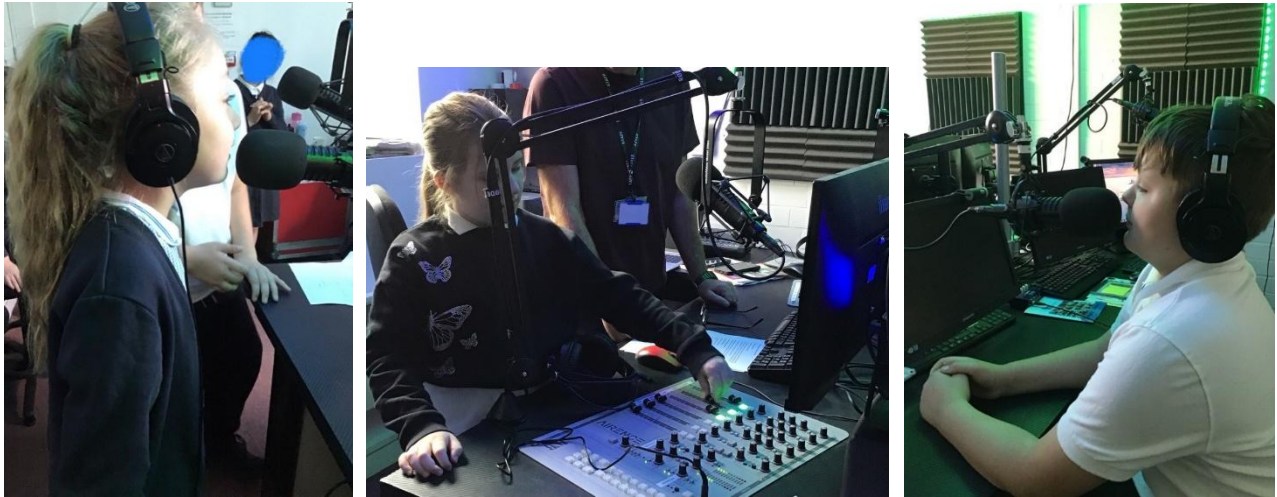
Towards the end of term, some pupils from secondary structured enjoyed a sleepover at school. The evening was filled with campfire songs, marshmallow toasting, and a cosy film night. The next morning, everyone was up bright and early for a delicious breakfast. I want to say a huge well done to all the pupils who took part — your behaviour, teamwork, and enthusiasm made the night a great success, and we are so proud of you.

A big thank you goes to the dedicated staff who volunteered their time to support this event. These experiences would not be possible without your care and commitment, and I know how much they mean to the pupils involved.



Radio FAW All

Our radio station continues to grow in popularity, with pupils contributing playlists and enjoying hearing their choices on air. Studio visits from both classes and the community have taken place this term and pupils from Hazlitt Class enjoyed announcing a song live on the radio and making a jingle together. You can listen to Maidstone Radio FAW All's live stream page here: [Listen Live – radiofawall](#)



Pupil Survey

Earlier this year, 206 pupils, mainly from our Snodland and Oxford Road sites, took part in a survey about their school experience. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Compared to national figures from *The Big Ambition* consultation, our pupils with SEND report significantly higher levels of enjoyment and engagement than the national average — a testament to the dedication of our staff and families.

Pupils said they feel happy, safe, and well supported by staff, with many enjoying activities such as trips, reward afternoons, and calm spaces. They feel they are making good progress, becoming more independent, and are confident knowing who to speak to when they need help. Teaching was rated highly, and sessions on Life Lessons and Online Safety were well received.

SCERTS

Earlier this term, staff took part in SCERTS training, led by international expert Emily Rubin. Emily specialises in Autism, Asperger's Syndrome and related social learning disabilities.

SCERTS is an educational model for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) or individuals not on the autism spectrum who are developing social communication and emotional regulation skills. SCERTS provides specific guidelines for helping an individual become a competent and confident social communicator and active learner. It can be adapted to meet the demands of

different social settings for youngsters, including home and school.

Emily also hosted an online Parent/Carer session on 1st May 2025, offering families the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about this approach. We hope that those who attended enjoyed the session.

Arbor

Arbor is our school management information service which allows us to communicate effectively with Parents and Carers. To find out how to access the portal or app, please see below.

To access the Parent Portal via a PC or MAC:

Visit <https://login.arbor.sc> and click on **Forgot your password**. Your username is the email address you received the Arbor invitation email on.

To access the Arbor app via mobile phone:

The Arbor app can be downloaded from the Playstore (for android phones) or Apple Store (for iPhones).

If you have any issues accessing the app or portal, please email office@five-acre.kent.sch.uk.

Healthcare Plans

Please can I remind all parents/carers that in the interest of your child's health and safety, it is your responsibility to ensure all information on Healthcare Plans is kept up to date and you should therefore notify us of any changes as they arise.

I would like to wish everyone an enjoyable half term and I look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Monday 2nd June 2025.

Kind regards,



Peggy Murphy
Principal

Updates from Hannah, our fundraiser:

Fundraising News - March-May 2025

FAW Charity Football Match

Join us on Friday 27th June at the Gallagher Stadium, Maidstone for our third charity football match! Our FAW team — made up of staff, family members, and friends are ready to take on the incredible staff and volunteers from Maidstone United FC and Stones in the Community.

Tickets are priced at:

Adults: £10

Under 16s: £5

Under 5s: Free

Family ticket (2 adults and up to 3 children) £28

Doors open at 6.00 pm with kick off at 7.00 pm. Drinks, food, sweets, and flags will also be available to purchase as well as a raffle on the evening. Tickets are just £2.00 each (further information will be sent home in the next term).

Apart from having a fantastic time at the match, you will be supporting our school charity where all money raised from the event will go towards running and providing essential football resources for our football sessions supported by Lorraine and Harry from Stones in the Community here at school. The coaches provide a differentiated learning experience, allowing all our pupils to access these sessions. To purchase tickets please visit Eventbrite and search Five Acre Wood School.

Cheque presentation

On May 7th, we were delighted to welcome East Kent Freemasons to our school for a cheque presentation, following a successful grant application. We were given £2849.80 which has been allocated to our new library – the 7FAW7. A huge thank you for their generous donation – we are truly grateful for your support.

South East water donation

We were blown away to receive the news that out of 100 applications to the South East Water's Community Chest Fund, we were one of the four charities chosen to receive £2,000. This grant will support our exciting new sensory garden project which will take our pupils on a multi-sensory journey through four seasons, enriched with the magic of fairy tales. Thanks to South East Water's incredible support, their donation will help us create meaningful opportunities and lasting change.

FAWbulous Projects

Our soft play bus has finally returned to its new home – looking better than ever! Although the inside is fully refurbished, over the May half term we will see some further work externally taking place, ready for the official launch in June, with a view of the bus being open to pupils at the

beginning of July. Please keep a look out on social media and in our next newsletter where you will have opportunity to see our FAWbulous bus.

Work is still being carried out on the 7FAW7 and FAWtilus (however this is now being used by our school councillor, pupils, and staff). We hope to officially launch both projects in late June/early July ready for the new academic year.

Term Dates with Diary Dates 2025

<u>Term 6</u>		
Monday 2 nd June 2025	N/A	First day of term 6
Week commencing 16th June 2025	TBC	Sports days (Loose site)
Tuesday 10 th June 2025	All day	Father's Day shop (Palace Wood)
Wednesday 11th June 2025	All day	Father's Day shop (St Kath's/Snodland)
June 2025	TBC	Sports day – FAW Snodland
Friday 27 th June 2025	TBC	FAW charity football match
Friday 4 th July 2025	All day	Transition day
Friday 4 th July 2025	EYFS & KS1 – 5.30-6.30PM KS2 & KS3 – 6.45-7.45PM	Summer disco (at Loose site)
Monday 7 th July 2025	3.45-6.45pm	'Meet the new teacher' parents evening
TBC	TBC	Secondary summer performance
TBC	TBC	Secondary prize giving
Tuesday 22 nd July 2025	N/A	Last day of term